REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 24, 2002, has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In order to advance the prosecution, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out the invention. Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.5,534,927 to Shishikui et al. It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is patentable over the art of record for the following reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 1 and 7 are further amended to have a first buffer 10 to temporarily store the output main bit stream and also a second buffer 4 to temporarily store the output subsidiary bit stream, as shown in FIG. 1.

The multiplexer 11 receives the main bit stream stored in the first buffer and periodically receives the subsidiary bit stream stored in the second buffer and multiplexes these bit streams so that the subsidiary bit streams are periodically inserted in the main bit stream, as disclosed in page 9, lines 26 to 36.

Therefore, the output bit stream generated by the multiplexer 11 carries all of the frames or fields of the main and the subsidiary bit streams in which inter-picture coded frames or fields (main bit stream) and periodically-inserted intra-picture coded frames or fields (subsidiary bit stream) are identical pictures.

Contrary to the claimed invention, Shishikui does not disclose such buffers. Therefore, the signal output from the switch 53 (FIG. 2) does not carry unselected signal. In other words, this output signal does not have identical pictures for the signals processed by 2D-DCT 22 and 1D-DCT 12, respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-10 to allow these claims and to find this application to be in allowable condition.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange for such a conference.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus for efficiently coding a moving picture signal, comprising:

a main coding processor to selectively encode an input moving picture signal by intra-picture coding or inter-picture coding in unit of frame or field output a main bit stream;

a first buffer to temporarily store the output main bit stream;

a subsidiary coding processor to encode motion-picture signal portions in specific frames or fields carried by the input moving picture signal by only intra-picture coding to output a subsidiary bit stream, the same motion-picture signal portions being also coded by the inter-picture coding by the main coding processor;

a second buffer to temporarily store the output subsidiary bit stream; and

a multiplexer to receive the main bit stream temporarily stored in the first buffer and periodically receive the subsidiary bit stream temporality stored in the second buffer and

multiplex the main and subsidiary bit streams so that the subsidiary bit streams for which the motion-picture signal portions have been encoded only by the intra-picture coding by the subsidiary coding processor are periodically inserted in the main bit stream for which same motion-picture signal portions have also been encoded by the inter-picture coding by the main coding processor in the vicinity of a predetermined number of the frames or fields coded by the inter-picture coding, thus generating an output bit stream.

7. (Thrice Amended) A method of efficiently coding a moving picture signal, comprising the steps of:

selectively encoding an input moving picture signal by intra-picture coding or inter-picture coding in unit of frame or field to output a main bit stream;

temporarily storing the output main bit stream in a first buffer;

encoding motion-picture signal portions in specific frames or fields carried by the input moving picture signal by only intra-picture coding to output a subsidiary bit stream, the same motion-picture signal portions being also coded by the inter-picture coding by the selective encoding;

temporarily storing the output subsidiary bit stream in a second buffer;

receiving the main bit stream temporarily stored in the first buffer and periodically receiving the subsidiary bit stream temporarily stored in the second buffer; and

multiplexing the main and subsidiary bit streams so that the subsidiary bit streams for which the motion-picture signal portions have been encoded only by the intra-picture coding are periodically inserted in the main bit stream for which the same motion-picture signal portions have also been encoded by the inter-picture coding in the vicinity of a predetermined number of the frames or fields coded by the inter-picture coding, thus generating an output bit stream.